

public with educational tools and programs aimed at reducing underage drinking.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join more than 30 governors from across the nation who have recognized the efforts of The Century Council in declaring May and June Prom and Graduation Safety Months.

REGARDING CO-SPONSORSHIP OF
H.R. 4061

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regards to H.R. 4061, the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Act of 2004, which passed the House International Relations Committee by unanimous consent on March 31st.

Last week the International Relations Committee filed House Report 108-479.

Because House rules prohibit the addition of additional co-sponsors to a bill once the committee report has been filed, I am not able to formally add another Member of Congress as a co-sponsor of this legislation.

I ask that the record show that Ms. Granger of Texas is in support of my bill and should be considered by this body as a co-sponsor of H.R. 4061.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School BCC in my district for being named a GRAMMY Signature School by the GRAMMY Foundation. BCC is only one of 41 public high schools in the country to receive this prestigious award. The GRAMMY Foundation recognizes outstanding public high schools across the U.S. that demonstrate a commitment to music education.

I am proud that, even in the midst of budget cuts, faculty and staff at BCC have managed to maintain and develop its arts and music program. BCC has successfully used the arts to captivate and engage students in the process of learning. The arts help children develop discipline as well as problem solving and critical thinking skills which are invaluable for future endeavors.

I applaud BCC for its commitment to music education and for making a positive difference in the lives of young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 13, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I

would have voted "no" on the following: Rollcall vote No. 172 on agreeing to the Kind substitute amendment to H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004; and rollcall vote No. 173 on the motion to recommit H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004.

I would have voted "yes" on the following: Rollcall vote No. 174 on passage of H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004; Rollcall vote No. 175 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.J. Res. 91, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and Rollcall vote No. 176 on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 414, Expressing the sense of Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V.
BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education decision, which declared segregation of public schools illegal. The case was sparked by Linda Brown, a black girl denied admission into a white elementary public school in Topeka, Kansas. The NAACP took up her case, along with similar ones in Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia, and Delaware. All five cases were argued together in December, 1952 by Thurgood Marshall.

I am proud to stand here today in honor of one of our country's pioneers in the history of civil rights. Before serving 24 years as the first African-American on the United States Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall served as legal director of the NAACP. Marshall was once asked for a definition of "equal" by Justice Frankfurter. He responded, "Equal means getting the same thing, at the same time, at the same place."

I am grateful to have contributed to the legacy of such a great American. As immediate past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am pleased that the seed planted under my administration has now blossomed into a fruitful initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank all of my colleagues here in Washington, around this nation and Topeka, Kansas for commemorating this significant event, so fundamental to our societal growth. I am here today because I believe that education must be our number one national priority. In my almost thirty years as a legislator, I have fought to ensure that education is at the forefront of the legislative agenda.

The President has promised to "leave no child behind", unfortunately, the current administration is not getting the message. The President's budget falls \$9.4 billion short of the funding commitment made in No Child Left Behind to K-12 education for Fiscal Year 2005. In my home State of Texas, the President's budget will impact math and reading programs for 205,157 children.

How can we ask educators to meet high standards at the same time we hand them a budget that forces class size increases, cuts in academic programs, and teacher layoffs? Demanding more but paying less does not work.

Other programs barely survive the budget chopping block—resources for teacher training, educational technology, after-school programs, and safe and drug-free schools are frozen; while for the second year in a row he allocates no money for school modernization.

Education is not a luxury item that can be trimmed when more enticing budget items beckon. It is an essential element that should be our highest national priority. Now is the time to increase education spending.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by asking my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my appreciation to the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall, the Brown family, and all of the unsung heroes who worked so tirelessly for equality and justice in America's public institutions of learning.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark civil rights ruling of Brown vs. The Board of Education. The plaintiffs in this case, led by Thurgood Marshall, argued that states did not have a valid reason to impose segregation, that racial segregation caused psychological damage, and that restrictions based on race or color violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth amendment. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously agreed.

Fifty years later, we must ask ourselves if the vision of equality sought by the plaintiffs in Brown has been realized. While today the legal battle against segregation is largely over, the struggle for equal opportunity continues. Gaps in academic achievement and outcomes separate white and minority students, and little has been done to address them. New data from the Urban Institute and the Harvard Civil Rights Project indicates that only about one-half of black and Hispanic students graduate from high school nationwide. The study also found that black students are over represented in special education programs and under represented in honors education programs.

Meaningful change in our public schools is needed, but the No Child Left Behind Act passed by Congress in 2001 is not the answer. Showcasing achievement gaps will only further erode support for our public schools and drive more students to private schools. A national mass exodus from our public schools, which has already occurred in some urban communities, would turn our public schools into classrooms of last resort and little hope.

The dream codified by Brown is alive, but we must continue to push for full equity and quality in education for all Americans. Today is an occasion to celebrate the progress made in the last 50 years, reflect on our progress thus far and recommit ourselves to the goal of equality that is the promise of our Constitution.